GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2248
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2002
CULTIVATION OF OILSEEDS
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any strategy to shift farmers` focus from cultivating foodgrains to oilseeds as about 40 percent of country`s requirement is being imported;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons thereto;

(d) whether the Government have fixed higher target for foodgrain export in the next fiscal year;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps mooted to achieve the target?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c): There is no specific scheme to shift farmers` focus from cultivating foodgrains to oilseeds. However, under Centrally Sponsored Oilseed ProductionProgramme (OPP), one of the strategy being adopted is replacement of low economycrops with oilseeds as also cultivation of oilseeds as substitute crop in problematic areas/situations where water supply is inadequate since water requirement for oilseed crops is low.

(d) to (f): No target is fixed for the export of agricultural products including foodgrains. However, efforts are being made to export the maximum quantity of agricultural products including foodgrains and emphasis is given to quality of product and other norms required for export.